

SECRET

SGI TWELFTH ARMY GROUP
MUNICH

11693

28 July 1945

SUBJECT: RSHA FINANCIAL OPERATION
TO: C.O., X-2 Germany
CIB, Third U.S. Army

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2005

1. In order to gather further information on the RSHA Financial Operation and to discover the location of the agents involved, Fritz SCHWEND and George SPITZ were taken by Capt. Timm and Capt. Michaelis to Merano. SCHWEND formerly had his headquarters in Merano.

2. CIC, Merano was visited in order to discover what they knew of the operation. The following agents of SCHWEND who had remained in Merano had been arrested by CIC: Oscar and Rudi BLASCHKE, purchasing agents, Harald WAENINGER, purchasing agent, Dr. Giovanni NEUHOLD, bookkeeper for SCHWEND, Dr. George GYSSLING, purchasing agent and former German Consul in Los Angeles, and Jack Levis VAN HARTEN who had worked with SCHWEND. CIC had no information on the exact missions of these men nor did they have a clear picture of the over-all RSHA operation. The agents had been arrested only as the result of denunciations by local inhabitants. To the knowledge of CIC Merano, they had not been fully interrogated.

3. Oscar BLASCHKE was under house arrest because he has tuberculosis. SPITZ was taken by Capt. Timm and Capt. Michaelis to see BLASCHKE who voluntarily turned over the profits he and his brother Rudi had made during their transactions for the RSHA. This amounted to 3150 gold pieces, 405 American one dollar bills and 2 diamond rings of approximately four and seven carats. Copies of the receipts are attached.

4. The captured money and property were turned over to Capt. Harry W. RIBACK, C.O., CIC Merano. The estimated value was 200,000 dollars. Capt. Riback has been asked to have Dr. NEUHOLD brought back to their station for interrogation. The information which NEUHOLD can provide will be most useful because of his position as bookkeeper for the operation. He will be able to give the location of money and valuables hidden by the RSHA. The money constitutes a continued threat to Allied security as it could be used to finance anti-Allied activities.

5. Oscar BLASCHKE was asked to write a history of his own activities and a history of the operations as far as he knows them. Fritz SCHWEND is engaged in writing a history of the entire RSHA Financial Operation which will be forwarded as soon as it is finished and translated.

6. Capt. Riback was most appreciative of the information furnished to him by SGI and has requested assistance in handling the situation in the area with respect to the persons involved.

Charles G. Michaelis
Captain QMC
Case Officer

DISTRIBUTION

5 cc ----- C.O., X-2 Germany
1 cc ----- CIB, Third U.S. Army
1 cc ----- File

26 July 1945

This is to certify that the money and property turned over by me, Oscar Blaschke to Capt. Charles Michaelis and Capt.

E.W. Timm was checked in my presence and the amount certified as follows.

Transaction 1.

I turned over a small white cloth bag containing the following:

1. 405 American one dollar bills
2. 150 Gold Napoleon coins
3. 2 diamond rings (one about 7 carats and one about 4 carats)

Transaction 2.

In addition to the above I turned over through Mrs. Lang, who had been keeping the money for me the sum of 3,000 gold coins.

All of the above money and property was obtained by me in connection with RSHA financial transactions, and this represents the total amount of money and property turned over to these officers or any of their representatives by me.

The above has been translated and is fully understood by me.

Witness:

Mr. George Spitz

Capt. E. W. Timm

Capt. Chas Michaelis

Oscar Blaschke

The above listed money and property was turned over to me by Capt. Timm and Michaelis of SOI on 26 July 1945

Harry W. Riback
Capt. Harry W. Riback
CIC Merano Italy
AFHQ

George Spitz